

The background features abstract, overlapping geometric shapes in various shades of blue, ranging from light sky blue to deep navy blue. The shapes are primarily triangles and polygons, creating a dynamic, layered effect. The text is centered in the white space between these shapes.

A Child's Journey

Case Study - "Alfie"



Alfie

Alfie is 12 years old and he lives at home with his mother and his younger sister Emma. Emma attends a mainstream school. Mother is a single parent and works full time.

Alfie has a diagnosis of Downs Syndrome with associated Learning Disability. He also has a hearing impairment and has a cochlear implant.

Alfie attends a school outside of the Borough as there was no specialist local provision available when he started primary school.

The initial referral for an assessment was made by Mother as she felt that she required assistance and has thought that Alfie needed support to help him socialise. Alfie was described as being a shy young man who didn't like a busy environment and would be physically sick when faced with this situation. Alfie has poor sleep patterns



Alfie's school day starts at 7.30am as the school transport arrives to pick him up at this time, and the school day for Alfie finishes at 5.30pm when he is dropped off at home.

The Social Worker started the assessment and partway through the process an incident report came in to say that Alfie had left the house at 12.30am the night before. Mother reported this to the police and he was found an hour later playing in a park.

Alfie's Voice

We will now take you through the process, showing how Alfie is involved, how his views are sought, and how they are taken into account in planning.

Before moving forward with Alfie, we need to:

- Consult with mother and school to consider the best way to communicate with Alfie.
- Understand Alfie's likes and dislikes to inform the process.
- Determine the best way to introduce the Social Worker.

Introducing the Social Worker...



Dear Alfie,



My name is Sam Stabler



I am your new Social Worker



I look like this



I will visit you at home after school

Tu 


on Tuesday.



I look forward to meeting you .



From Sam

Direct Work with Alfie

Boardmaker:

Boardmaker is a computer programme used to create Visual resources to use with children and young people with Communication difficulties.



tobii dynavox

Some children & Young people are only able to communicate on a one symbol level. Others are able to select from a number of symbols.

These choice boards can be personalised with things that we know the child likes, so they can point to their preference.

It can also be used as a conversation starter for a child who is able to communicate verbally.

The screenshot shows a 'New Project' window with a sidebar on the left containing navigation options like 'Default', 'Blank and Recent', 'Categories', 'By Activity Type', 'By Instructional Area', 'All Templates', 'Other', and 'From File...'. The main area is titled 'By Activity Type' and contains a grid of 12 template thumbnails. The first thumbnail, 'Choice Board - 12 Items (SAMPLE) A4', is highlighted. To the right of the grid, a detailed view of this template is shown, including its title, author (Mayer-Johnson), description, and tags. Below this is a 'Template Sample' section with a grid of 12 icons and their corresponding labels: 'Sp popcorn', 'stick out tongue', 'kiss kiss', 'meow like a cat', 'like like a snake', 'helicopter', 'lick lips', 'whistle', 'lick lollipop', 'hiss', 'cork like a monkey', and 'tray soap'. At the bottom right of the window are 'Create' and 'Cancel' buttons.

Choice Board - 12 Items (SAMPLE) A4

Author: Mayer-Johnson

Description: Simple printed communication board that provides 12 choices that can be pointed to..

Tags: communication, choice

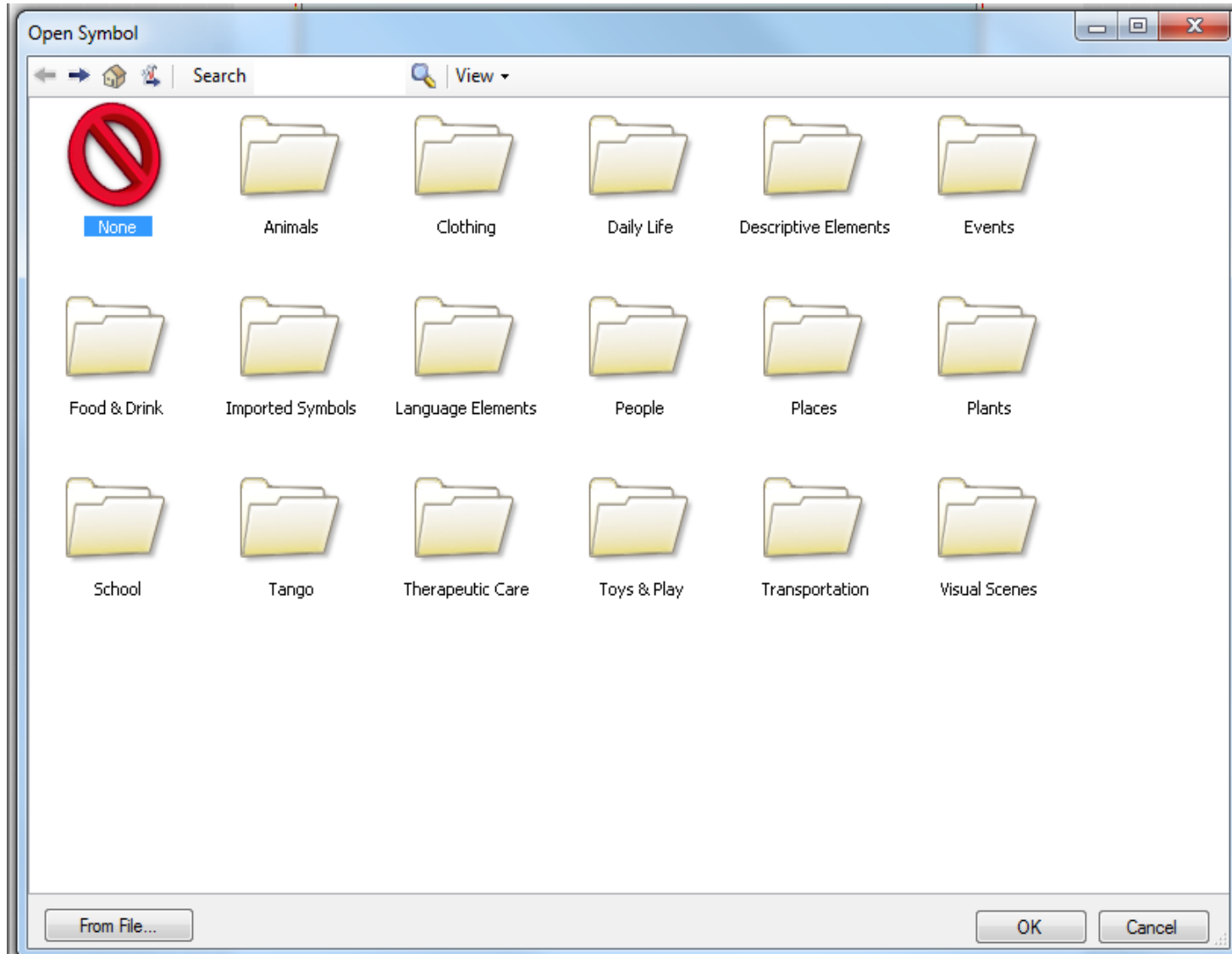
Template Sample

Oral Motor Exercises			
Sp popcorn	stick out tongue	kiss kiss	meow like a cat
like like a snake	helicopter	lick lips	whistle
lick lollipop	hiss	cork like a monkey	tray soap

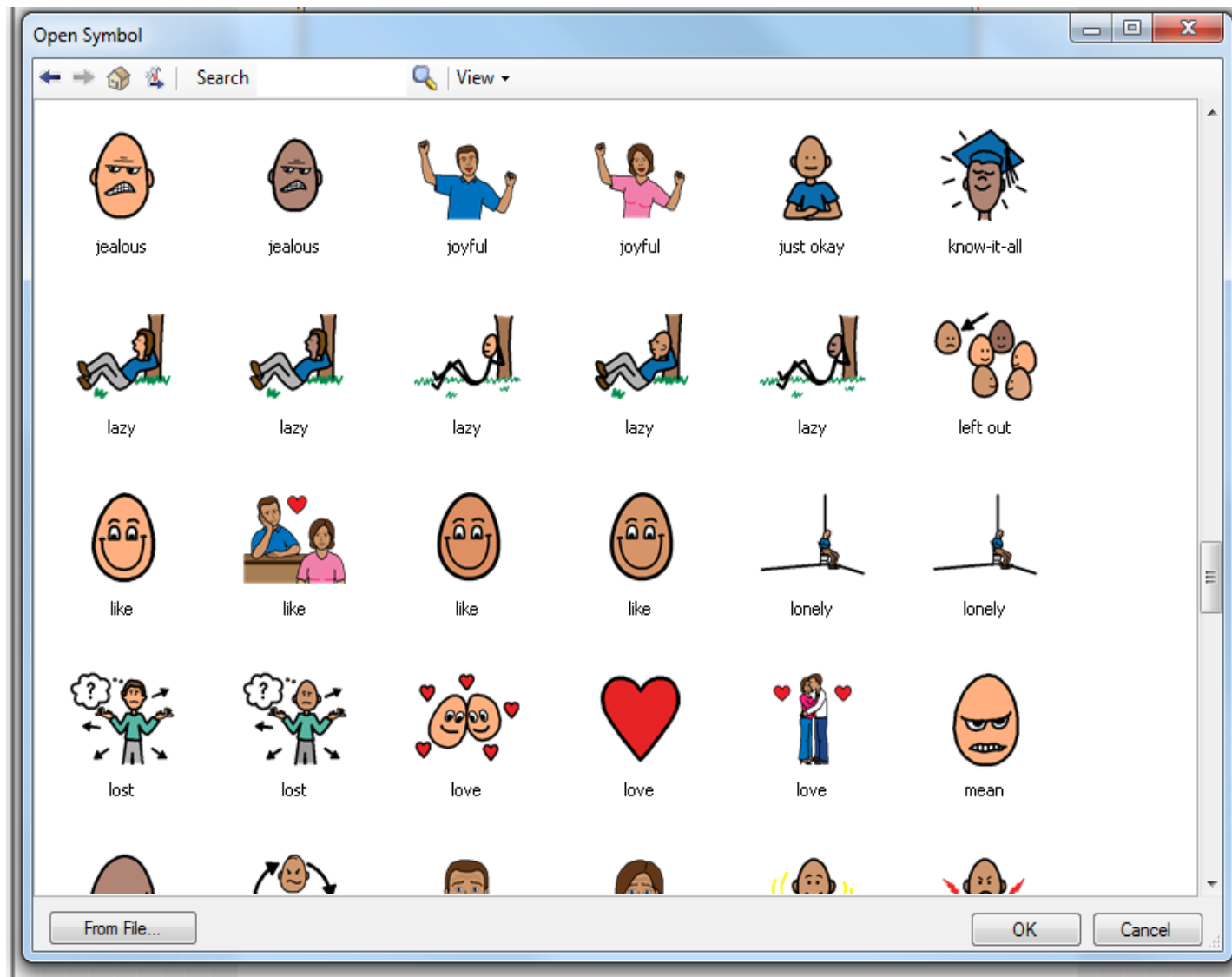
Create as: Project Template

Create Cancel

Hundreds of Symbols are available to use for everything from food to hobbies, people, daily routines etc.

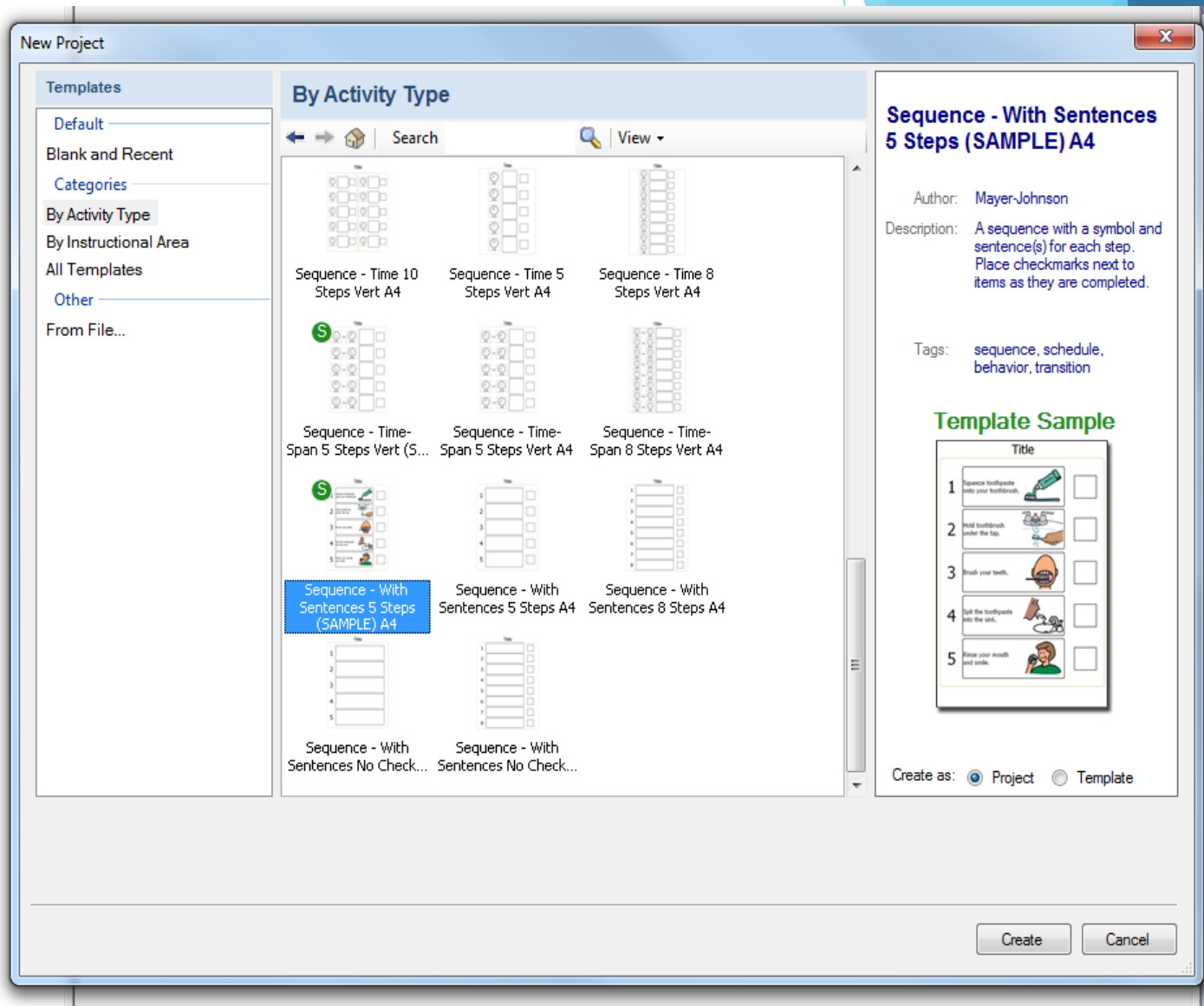


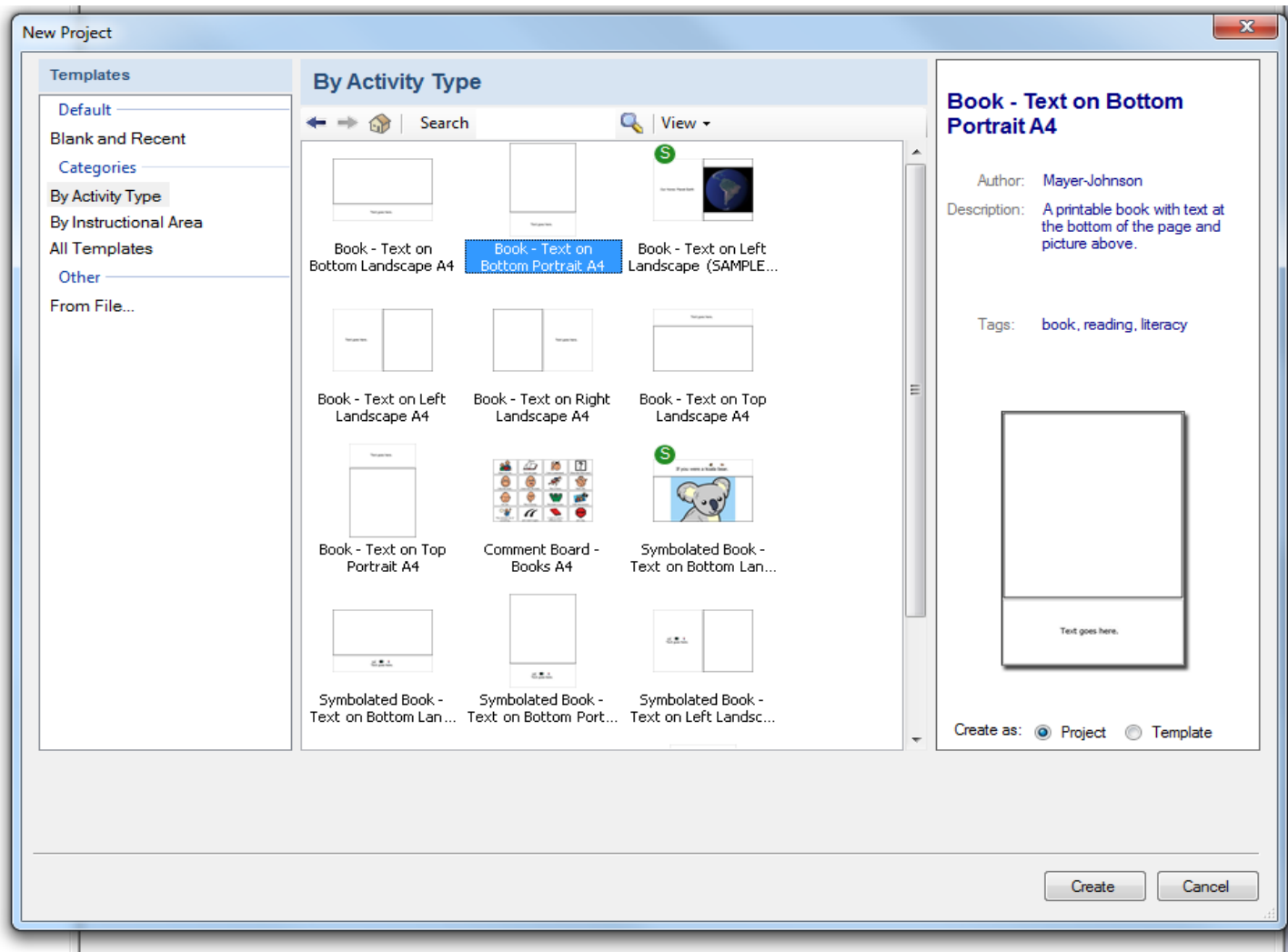
We can use symbols for different feelings, if this is something the child would be able to understand.



Sequence templates are useful to help children to remember all of the steps for an activity, eg. Brushing teeth, showering, washing hair, getting ready for school, bedtime routines etc.

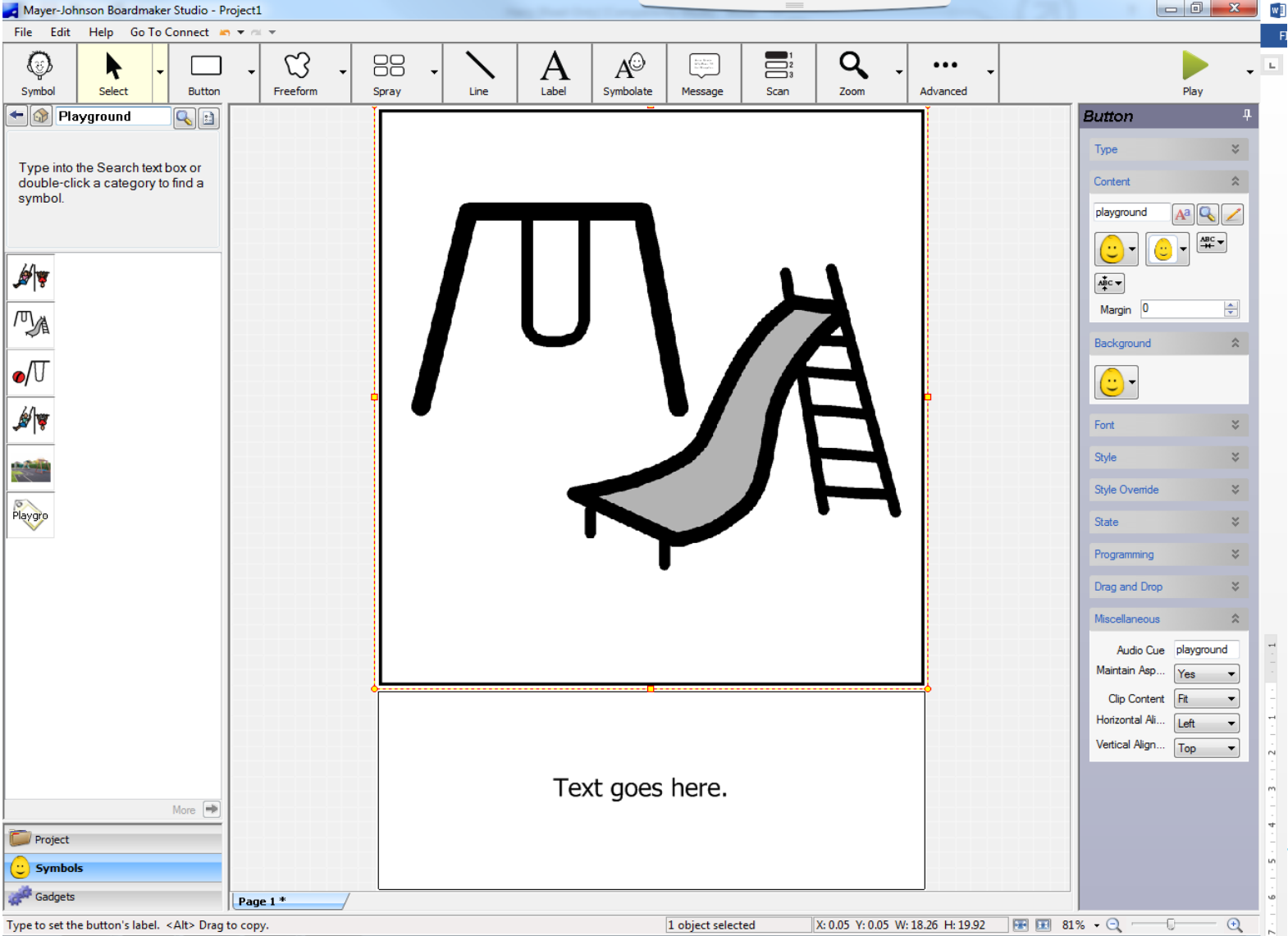
If these things are highlighted as an issue, something simple like this can sometimes, with practice, support them to develop these skills, increase the young person's independence, and reduce the strain on parents.





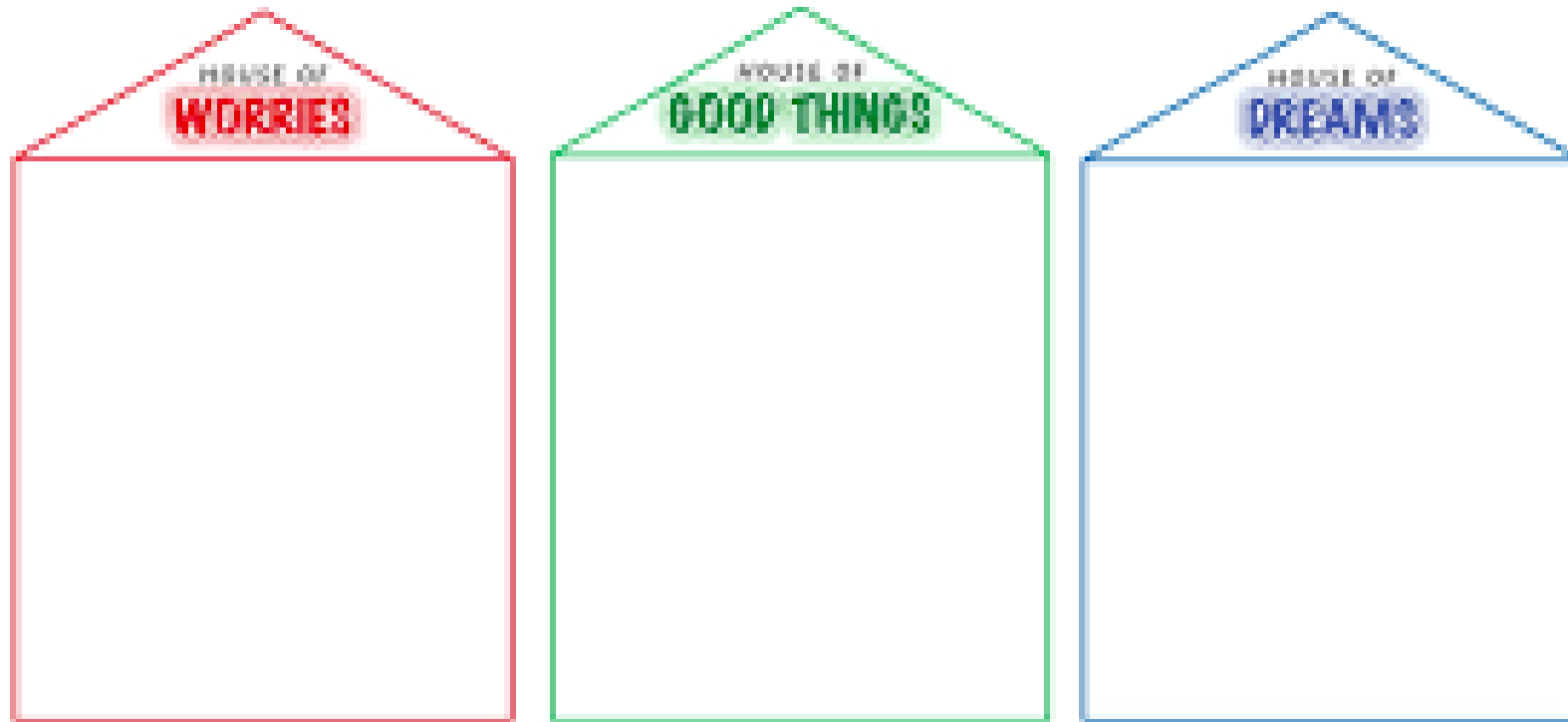
The programme includes templates for books with different layouts that we can use for Social Stories, which is something we used for Alfie. They can be adapted to what will work best for the child and situation.

The template makes it easy to add the symbol or photograph that we want into the story.



The Three Houses

One of the ways of gathering children's views is by using the "Three Houses", where children draw or write in each "house". This is not always accessible or attractive to children with communication and/or learning difficulties.



About Me

My Name is _____

I am _____ years old

In my family I have...

brother(s)
 sister
 Dad
 stepmother
 stepfather

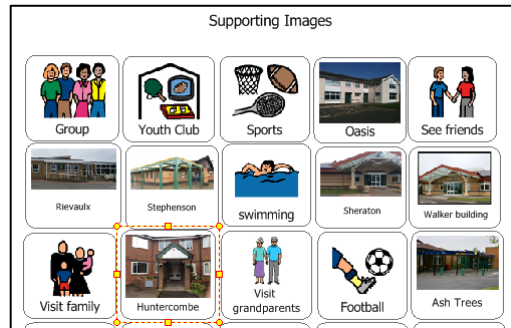
These people are important to me too...

I go out to these places...

Where and when?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

I like Not like



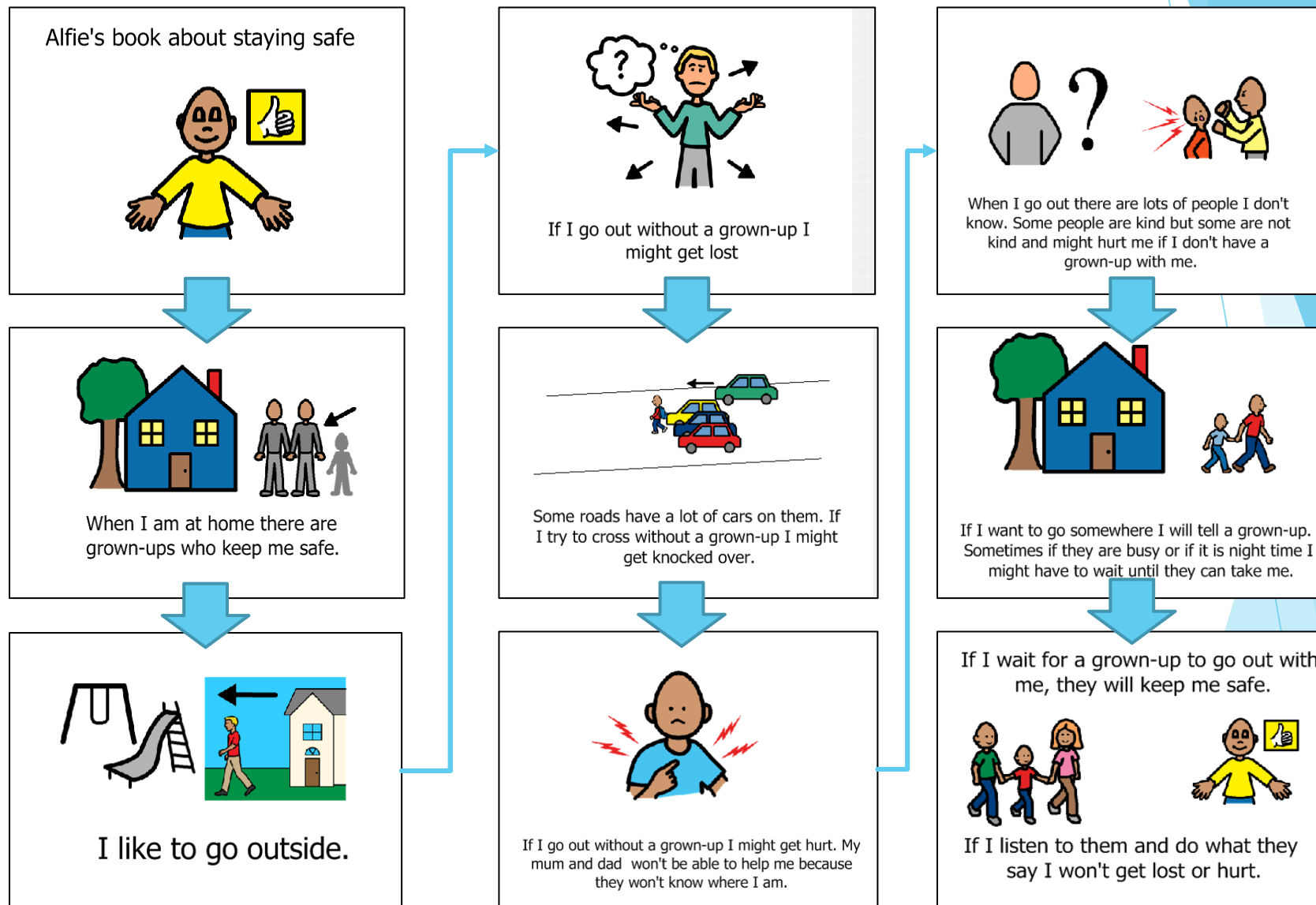
What can I do for myself?

I can

Wipe my face	<input type="checkbox"/>	Wash my hands	<input type="checkbox"/>
Brush my teeth	<input type="checkbox"/>	Go to the toilet	<input type="checkbox"/>
Brush my hair	<input type="checkbox"/>	wipe myself	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wash my hair	<input type="checkbox"/>	Have a bath	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wash my face	<input type="checkbox"/>	Have a shower	<input type="checkbox"/>
Feed myself	<input type="checkbox"/>	Dress myself	<input type="checkbox"/>

Social Story

In response to Alfie going missing from home, we created a Social Story to help him to understand the dangers of going out alone and how to stay safe.




What Alfie told us...

- He wanted to play with friends and went to the park to do this. It was nice and quiet but dark.
- He wants to play with the friends he has at school.
- He likes horses.

Outcome of the Assessment, taking into account Alfie's views and wishes:

- Use of Short Breaks Grant to be able to attend a play centre near to his school where some of his friends attend one night a week straight from school (Meet need to socialise and play with friends)
- Horse Riding Lessons (meet need to socialise and learn a new skill)
- Use of Short Break Provisions - Oasis and Hartburn Lodge (Short Break for mother and allow mother and sister some quality time together)
- Referral for sibling to Eastern Ravens Trust, having been identified as a potential Young Carer. The impact on her family of Alfie's disability may cause her to become isolated.

How Alfie's views are taken into account at Hartburn and Oasis ...

 Your Views on Oasis

How do you feel at Oasis?

(You can choose more than one)

happy sad bored scared excited

f you are not happy can you say

why? Use photo album to help you.

What activities do you like at Oasis?

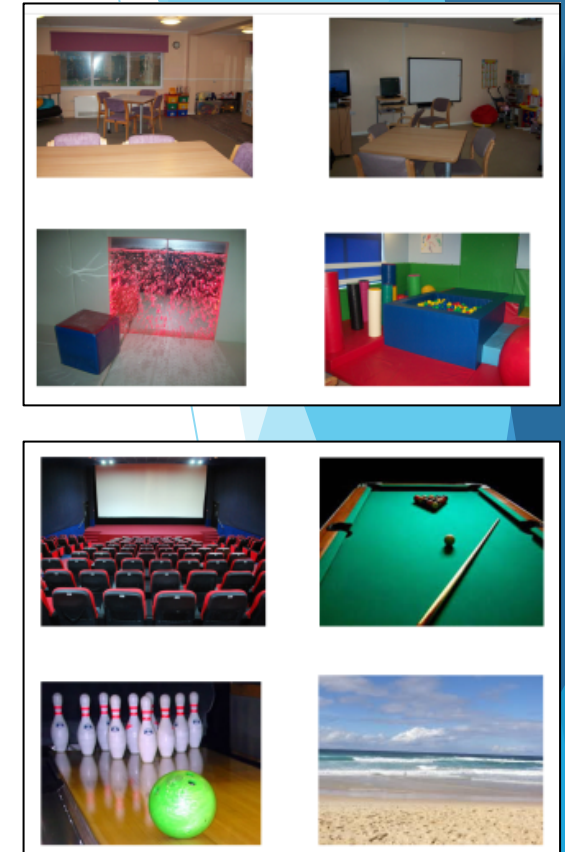
Is there anything you don't like at Oasis?

Is there anything you would like to do when you come to Oasis?

You can look at some pictures to help you.

Your Name _____

Date _____



Here are some other
examples of
resources we use...

We are happy to
answer any
questions you
may have.